



JPW

Docket No.: 36507-193186
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Sohl et al.

Application No.: 10/666,547

Confirmation No.: 5549

Filed: September 22, 2003

Art Unit: 2829

For: ENHANCED SUBSURFACE MEMBRANE
INTERFACE PROBE (MIP)

Examiner: Jermele M. Hollington

**PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL
UNDER 37 CFR 1.102(c)**

MS Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Submitted herewith is a Petition to Make Special the above-identified patent application. The basis of this Petition is that the invention will materially enhance the quality of the environment.

The invention provides a device used in a process that speeds up the process of assessing the environmental damage to a site as well as improving the accuracy of such assessments. The improved accuracy and speed of assessment allows remediation to occur more quickly, and to be better tailored to the remediation needs of a particular site. In particular the present invention includes an enhanced membrane interface probe (MIP) including: a modular membrane interface probe (MIP) sensor constructed from a plurality of modular components allowing field serviceable replacement of any malfunctioning components of the plurality of modular components. The modular MIP can include: an external barrel having a cavity; or (or throughout means and/or, i.e., a

logical or operation) an inner core barrel assembly field-insertable into the cavity having a heater cavity, where the heater cavity is adapted to receive a field-insertable removable cartridge heating element. The modular MIP can include a removable conductivity nose assembly, a field-insertable removable cartridge heating element, or a waterproof electrical connector and/or an o-ring seal. The probe may be used in real-time assessments of environmentally damaged sites to assess subsurface contaminants continuously as the probe is inserted into the subsurface. The probe is an improvement over conventional soil and core samples, which must be analyzed after the fact with hand scanners or lab equipment that is not practical to bring on-site.

Accordingly, applicant requests that this Petition to Make Special be granted and the application undergo accelerated examination.

Under 37 CFR 1.102(c), no fee is required. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261, under Order No. 36507-193186. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: May 11, 2005

Respectfully submitted,


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